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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

11 MARGARET KEIPER,
12
13 Plaintiff[s],

14 v.

15 VICTOR VALLEY TRANSIT
AUTHORITY, ET AL,
16 Defendant[s].

Case No. ED CV 15-703 BRO(SPx)

**AMENDED ORDER FOR CIVIL
JURY TRIAL**

**SEE LAST PAGE FOR PRETRIAL
AND TRIAL DATES**

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**UNLESS OTHERWISE ORDERED BY THE COURT, THE FOLLOWING
RULES SHALL APPLY:**

21
I. E-FILING REQUIREMENTS

22 One (1) mandatory paper Chambers copy of all e-filed motion, opposition
23 and/or reply documents must be delivered to Judge O'Connell's box, on the Spring
24 Street floor of the United States District Court, located at 312 N. Spring St., Los
25 Angeles, by noon on the day after e-filing. The Court requires ONE mandatory
26 chambers copy of **only** the following filed documents: all motions and related
27 documents and exhibits and, all trial documents. DO NOT provide blue backs on the
28 mandatory chambers copy. Unless otherwise ordered, proposed orders are **not**
necessary for the following motions: motions for summary judgment, motions to

dismiss, motions for attorney's fees, motions to strike, motions for judgments on the pleadings, motions for default judgment, motions for class certification, motions for remand, motions for preliminary injunction, motions for reconsideration, and motions in limine. Documents will not be considered until the Chambers copy is submitted. Please attach the NEF to the Chambers copy. Courtesy copies **DO NOT** need to be blue-backed. Chambers copies delivered by Federal Express should not require the signature of the recipient.

II. SCHEDULING

A. In General

All motions to join other parties or to amend the pleadings shall be filed and served by the cut-off date specified in the Scheduling Order if not specified by the Rules of Civil Procedure and the applicable Local Rules.

B. Motions for Summary Judgment or Partial Summary Judgment

Motions for summary judgment or partial summary judgment shall be filed as soon as practical, however, in no event later than forty-nine (49) days before the motion cut-off date.

C. Discovery Cut-Off

The Court has established a cut-off date for discovery in this action. All discovery shall be completed by the discovery cut-off date specified in the Scheduling Order. **This is not the date by which discovery requests must be served; it is the date by which all discovery is to be completed.**

In an effort to provide further guidance to the parties, the Court notes the following:

1. Depositions

All depositions shall be scheduled to commence sufficiently in advance of the discovery cut-off date to permit their completion and to permit the deposing party enough time to bring any discovery motion concerning the deposition prior to the cut-off date.

1 2. Written Discovery

2 All interrogatories, requests for production of documents, and requests for
3 admission shall be served sufficiently in advance of the discovery cut-off date to
4 permit the discovering party enough time to challenge (via motion practice)
5 responses deemed to be deficient.

6 3. Discovery Motions

7 Whenever possible, the Court expects the parties to resolve discovery
8 problems among themselves in a courteous, reasonable, and professional manner.
9 The Court expects that counsel will strictly adhere to the Civility and Professional
10 Guidelines adopted by the United States District Court for the Central District of
11 California in July 1995, which can be found on the Court's website under "Attorney
12 Information > Attorney Admissions."

13 Discovery matters are referred to a United States Magistrate Judge. **Any**
14 **motion challenging the adequacy of responses to discovery must be filed timely,**
15 **and served and calendared sufficiently in advance of the discovery cut-off date**
16 **to permit the responses to be obtained before that date, if the motion is granted.**

17 Consistent resort to the Court for guidance in discovery is unnecessary and
18 will result in the appointment of a Special Master at the joint expense of the parties
19 to resolve discovery disputes.

20 4. Expert Discovery

21 Expert discovery is to be concluded by the discovery cut-off date.
22 Accordingly, the initial disclosure of expert witnesses in full compliance with the
23 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure is ordered no later than seventy (70) days before
24 the discovery cut-off. Counter-designations of rebuttal experts in full compliance
25 with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure are to be made thirty (30) days after the
26 other party's disclosure.

1 **D. Mandatory Settlement Conference** (ADR proceedings)

2 Pursuant to Local Rule 16-15, the parties in every case must select a
3 settlement procedure. The final meeting with the parties' settlement officer must
4 take place no later than four weeks before the Final Pretrial Conference. Counsel
5 shall file a Joint Report regarding the outcome of settlement discussions, the
6 likelihood of possible further discussions, and any help the Court may provide with
7 regard to settlement negotiations not later than seven (7) days after the settlement
8 conference.

9 **III. FINAL PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE ("PTC")**

10 This case will be placed on calendar for a Final Pre-Trial Conference pursuant
11 to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 16 and 26. Unless excused for good cause, each
12 party appearing in this action shall be represented at the Final Pre-Trial Conference,
13 and all pre-trial meetings of counsel shall be attended by the attorney who is to have
14 charge of the conduct of the trial on behalf of such party.

15 *Pro Per* parties, or litigants representing themselves, are not exempt from
16 following Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16.

17 **STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENT OF FEDERAL**
18 **RULE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 26 AND LOCAL RULES IS REQUIRED BY THE**
19 **COURT.** Therefore, carefully prepared Memoranda of Contentions of Fact and Law,
20 a Joint Witness List, and a Joint Exhibit List shall be submitted to the Court. The
21 Joint Witness List shall contain a brief statement of the testimony for each witness,
22 **what makes the testimony unique** from any other witness testimony, and the time
23 estimate for such testimony. The Joint Exhibit List shall contain any objections to
24 authenticity and/or admissibility to the exhibit(s) and the reasons for the objections.
25 Please adhere to the template provided in the following link: [Joint Exhibit List](#)
26 [Template](#).

27 The Memoranda of Contentions of Fact and Law, Witness List, and Exhibit
28 List are due fourteen (14) days before the Final Pre-Trial Conference. **The parties**

shall provide an electronic copy of the Memoranda of Contentions of Fact and Law, Witness List and Exhibit List in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) format to the Judge's Chambers' Email at BRO_Chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov. The parties shall provide hyperlinks to case citations and/or evidence.

IV. **FINAL PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE ORDER ("PTCO")**

The proposed PTCO shall be lodged fourteen (14) calendar days before the Pretrial Conference ("PTC"). Adherence to this time requirement is necessary for in-Chambers preparation of the matter. The form of the proposed PTCO shall comply with Appendix A to the Local Rules and the following: [PTCO Template](#).

A. Place in "all caps" and in "bold" the separately numbered headings for each category in the PTCO (e.g., "**1. THE PARTIES**" or "**7. CLAIMS AND DEFENSES OF THE PARTIES**").

B. Include a table of contents at the beginning.

C. In specifying the surviving pleadings under section 1, state which claims or counterclaims have been dismissed or abandoned, e.g., "Plaintiff's second cause of action for breach of fiduciary duty has been dismissed." Also, in multiple-party cases where not all claims or counterclaims will be prosecuted against all remaining parties on the opposing side, please specify to which party each claim or counterclaim is directed.

D. In specifying the parties' claims and defenses under section 7, each party shall closely follow the examples set forth in Appendix A of the Local Rules.

E. In drafting the PTCO, the Court also expects that the parties will attempt to agree on and set forth as many non-contested facts as possible. The Court will typically read the uncontested facts to the jury at the end of trial. A carefully drafted and comprehensively stated stipulation of facts will reduce the length of trial and increase jury understanding of the case.

F. In drafting the factual issues in dispute for the PTCO, the parties should attempt to state issues in ultimate fact form, not in the form of evidentiary fact issues.

The issues of fact should track the elements of a claim or defense on which the jury will be required to make findings.

G. Issues of law should state legal issues on which the Court will be required to rule during the trial and should not list ultimate fact issues to be submitted to the trier of fact.

The parties shall provide an electronic copy of the PTCO in Microsoft Word format to the Judge's Chambers' Email at: BRO_Chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov.

V. TRIAL PREPARATION FOR COURT TRIAL – MOTIONS, FINDINGS OF FACT, AND EXHIBITS

A. Motions in Limine

All motions *in limine* must be filed and served a minimum of twenty-eight (28) days prior to the scheduled hearing on Motions *in Limine* date (typically one week before the schedule trial date, as set forth in the attached schedule). Each motion should be separately filed and numbered. All opposition documents must be filed and served at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the scheduled hearing on Motions *in Limine* date. All reply documents must be filed and served at least fourteen (14) days prior to the scheduled hearing date. **Counsel may file no more than five motions *in limine* per side. The motions *in limine* shall not include subparts.**

All motions *in limine* will be ruled upon on or before the scheduled trial date.

B. Jury Instructions/Special Verdict Forms

Thirty-five (35) days before the hearing on Disputed Jury Instructions (as set forth in the attached schedule), plaintiff shall serve plaintiff's proposed jury instructions and special verdict forms on defendant. Twenty-eight (28) days before the hearing, defendant shall serve on plaintiff defendant's objections to plaintiff's instructions together with any additional instructions defendant intends to offer. Twenty-one (21) days before the hearing, plaintiff shall serve on defendant

1 plaintiff's objections to defendant's instructions. Twenty-one (21) days before the
2 hearing, counsel are ordered to meet and confer to attempt to come to agreement on
3 the proposed jury instructions. The parties shall make every attempt to agree upon
4 the jury instructions before submitting them to the Court. It is expected that counsel
5 will agree on the substantial majority of jury instructions.

6 Fourteen (14) days before the hearing, the parties must submit JOINT jury
7 instructions and a JOINT proposed verdict form. Where the parties cannot agree,
8 disputed instructions shall be submitted one week before trial as follows: a) JOINT
9 jury instructions (those instructions agreed to by all parties), and b) DISPUTED jury
10 instructions (those instructions propounded by a party to which another party
11 objects). On a separate page following each disputed jury instruction, the party
12 opposing the instruction shall briefly state the basis for the objection and any
13 authority in support thereof. On the following page, the party proposing the disputed
14 instruction shall briefly state its response to the objection and any authority in
15 support of the instruction. Each requested jury instruction shall be numbered and set
16 forth in full on a separate page, citing the authority or source of the requested
17 instruction. If the parties dispute a jury instruction regarding the same issue and each
18 proposes an alternate instruction, the parties should place the instructions side by
19 side with the same number denoted "A" and "B" and include these instructions in the
20 plaintiff's proposed disputed set of instructions. **Please follow the format shown in**
21 **the attached links:**

22 [Joint Proposed Jury Instructions](#)

23 [Disputed Proposed Jury Instructions \(Plaintiff's Template\)](#)

24 [Disputed Proposed Jury Instructions \(Defendant's Template\)](#)

25 Jury instructions should be modified as necessary to fit the facts of the case
26 (e.g., inserting names of the defendant(s) to whom the instruction applies). Where
27 language appears in brackets in the model instruction, counsel shall select the
28 appropriate text and eliminate the inapplicable bracketed text. Where no applicable

Ninth Circuit model instruction is available, counsel are directed to use the instructions from O'Malley, Grenig & Lee (formerly Devitt et al.), Federal Jury Practice and Instructions (West Publishing Co., current edition).

Modifications of instructions from the foregoing sources (or any other form instructions) must be redlined (or saved in "Track Changes") and specifically state the modification made to the original form instruction and the authority supporting the modification.

An index page shall accompany all jury instructions submitted to the Court. The index page shall indicate the following:

- a. The number of the instruction;
- b. A brief title of the instruction;
- c. The source of the instruction; and
- d. The page number of the instruction.

Please follow the format shown in the attached link for an example: [Jury Instructions Index Template](#).

One or more copies of the instructions will be given to the jury during deliberations in either hard copy or electronic format. Accordingly, on the diskette or USB device submitted with jury instructions, counsel shall include a "clean" set of all instructions, containing only the text of each instruction, set forth in full on each page, with the caption "Court's Instruction No. ____" (eliminating titles, supporting authority, indication of party proposing, etc.). **Please follow the format shown in the attached links:**

[Joint Proposed Jury Instructions](#)

[Disputed Proposed Jury Instructions \(Plaintiff's Template\)](#)

[Disputed Proposed Jury Instructions \(Defendant's Template\)](#)

If counsel wish to submit a written questionnaire to prospective jurors, a motion shall be made in writing, with the proposed questionnaire attached, no later than eight weeks before the trial date. The Court does not routinely use

1 questionnaires. Counsel should attempt to discuss this issue and reach a proposed
2 agreement before submitting the motion to the Court.

3 At least one week before trial, each counsel must file with the CRD and serve
4 on opposing counsel any proposed voir dire questions to be asked of prospective
5 jurors. Counsel shall also file a Joint Statement of the Case, which the Court will
6 read to prospective jurors prior to the commencement of voir dire. The statement
7 shall not exceed one page. These documents should also be lodged electronically as
8 a Word Document (.doc or .docx).

9 During the trial and before argument, the Court will meet with counsel and
10 settle the instructions. Strict adherence to time requirements is necessary for the
11 Court to examine the submissions in advance so that there will be no delay in starting
12 the jury trial. **Failure of counsel to strictly follow the provisions of this section**
13 **may subject the non-complying party and/or its attorney to sanctions and**
14 **SHALL CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF JURY TRIAL in all civil cases.**

15 **C. Trial Exhibits**

16 Counsel are to prepare their joint exhibits for presentation at the trial by
17 placing them in joint binders that are indexed by exhibit number with tabs or dividers
18 on the right side. Counsel shall submit to the Court an original and one copy of the
19 binders. The exhibits shall be in a three-ring binder labeled on the spine portion of
20 the binder as to the volume number and contain an index of each exhibit included in
21 the volume. Exhibits must be numbered in accordance with Federal Rules of Civil
22 Procedure 16 and 26, as well as this Court's Local Rules. The Court discourages the
23 use of extra large binders.

24 The Joint Exhibit list shall indicate which exhibits are objected to, the reason
25 for the objection, and the reason it is admissible. Failure to object will result in a
26 waiver of objection.

27 The Court requires that the Joint Exhibit List, the Joint Witness List, and the
28 Statement of the Case, all completed in Microsoft Word format (.doc or .docx), be

provided to the Courtroom Deputy Clerk on a thumb drive no later than the one week prior to the trial date. The Court requires that all joint exhibits be placed on a USB or “thumb” drive for the Court.

The Court uses a jury evidence recording system (JERS) that allows evidence admitted during trial to be viewed electronically in the jury deliberation room upon conclusion of the trial. *See* JERS Information. [JERS ATTORNEY INFORMATION](#).

The Court requires that the following be submitted to the Courtroom Deputy Clerk on the first day of trial:

1. The original exhibits with the Court’s exhibit tags shall be stapled to the front of the exhibit on the upper right-hand corner with the case number, case name, and exhibit number placed on each tag. Exhibit tags can be obtained from the Clerk’s Office, Room G-8, 312 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.
2. One bench book with a copy of each exhibit for use by the Court, tabbed with numbers as described above. (Court’s exhibit tags not necessary.)
3. Three (3) copies of exhibit lists.
4. Three (3) copies of witness lists in the order in which the witness may be called to testify.
5. Counsel are ordered to submit a **one (1)** page joint statement of the case twenty-eight (28) days before trial that the Court may read to the prospective panel.
6. All counsel are to meet no later than ten (10) days before trial and to stipulate so far as is possible as to foundation, waiver of the best evidence rule, and to those exhibits that may be received into evidence at the start of trial. The exhibits to be so received will

1 be noted on the copies of the exhibit lists that are emailed to the
2 Courtroom Deputy Clerk.

- 3 7. Counsel may, but need not, submit brief proposed voir dire
4 questions for the jury twenty-eight (28) days before the trial. The
5 Court will conduct its own voir dire after considering any
6 proposed voir dire submitted by counsel.
- 7 8. Any items that have not been admitted into evidence and are left
8 in the courtroom overnight without prior approval will be
9 discarded.
- 10 9. In most cases, the Court will conduct its initial voir dire of
11 fourteen prospective jurors who will be seated in the jury box.
12 Generally, the Court will select seven or eight jurors.
- 13 10. Each side will have three peremptory challenges. If fourteen
14 jurors are seated in the box and all six peremptory challenges are
15 exercised, the remaining eight jurors will constitute the panel. If
16 fewer than six peremptory challenges are exercised, the eight
17 jurors in the lowest-numbered seats will be the jury. The Court
18 will not necessarily accept a stipulation to a challenge for cause.
19 If one or more challenges for cause are accepted, and all six
20 peremptory challenges are exercised, the Court may decide to
21 proceed with six or seven jurors.

22 **VI. INSTRUCTIONS GOVERNING PROCEDURE DURING TRIAL**

- 23 1. Counsel shall not refer to any witness—including a client—over
24 14 years of age by his/her first name during trial.
- 25 2. Counsel shall not discuss the law or argue the case in opening
26 statements.

- 1 3. The Court will establish reasonable time limits for opening
2 statements and closing arguments and the presentation of their
3 case. The Court strictly enforces the set time limits.
- 4 4. Counsel shall not use objections for the purpose of making a
5 speech, recapitulating testimony, or attempting to guide the
6 witness. When objecting, counsel shall stand and state only the
7 legal ground of the objection—e.g., hearsay, irrelevant, or other
8 permissible legal grounds. Counsel shall not argue an objection
9 before the jury. Requests to approach sidebar to argue an
10 objection further should be made sparingly and may not be
11 granted.
- 12 5. Counsel shall not make facial expressions, nod, or shake their
13 heads, or comment or otherwise exhibit in any way any
14 agreement, disagreement, or other opinion or belief concerning
15 the testimony of a witness. Counsel shall admonish their clients
16 and witnesses not to engage in such conduct.
- 17 6. Counsel should not talk to jurors at all, and should not talk to co-
18 counsel, opposing counsel, witnesses, or clients where the
19 conversation may be overheard by jurors. Each counsel should
20 admonish counsel's own clients and witnesses to avoid such
21 conduct. Counsel should not speak with courthouse personnel
22 regarding the trial, jury deliberations, or where the jury stands.
23 Each counsel should admonish counsel's clients, witnesses, and
24 agents not to engage in such conduct. If any team should
25 inadvertently become aware of jury information, including where
26 the jury stands during deliberations, such information shall not be
27 repeated to anyone without permission of the Court. The parties
28 should immediately notify the Court of such disclosure.

- 1 7. Counsel shall question witnesses from the lectern. Counsel shall
2 not approach the witness stand or enter the well without the
3 Court's permission, and counsel shall return to the lectern when
4 counsel's purpose has been accomplished.
- 5 8. Counsel should speak clearly when questioning witnesses,
6 making objections, or arguing.
- 7 9. No document shall be placed before a witness unless a copy has
8 been provided to the Court. Counsel may consider such devices
9 as overhead projectors, jury notebooks for admitted exhibits, and
10 enlargements of important exhibits. The Court has a Doar
11 presenter and other equipment available for use during trial.
12 Telephone the CRD if you wish to visit when the Court is not in
13 session to practice using the equipment. The Court does not
14 permit exhibits to be "published" by passing them up and down
15 the jury box. Exhibits may be displayed using the screen in the
16 Courtroom, but only if they have been admitted.
- 17 10. Water will be provided at counsel table. Water cups are not to be
18 brought to the lectern. No other beverages are permitted in the
19 Courtroom. Food is not permitted in the Courtroom.
- 20 11. Counsel shall rise when addressing the Court. In jury trials,
21 counsel and the defendant shall rise when the jury enters or leaves
22 the Courtroom. Special procedures or exceptions may apply
23 when the defendant is in custody or restrained.
- 24 12. In trial, all remarks shall be addressed to the Court. Counsel shall
25 not directly address the CRD, the court reporter, or opposing
26 counsel. All requests for re-reading of questions or answers, or to
27 have an exhibit placed in front of a witness, shall be addressed to
28 the Court.

- 1 13. Counsel should not offer a stipulation without having conferred
2 with opposing counsel and having reached an agreement. Any
3 stipulation of fact will require defendant's personal concurrence
4 and shall be submitted to the Court in writing for approval. A
5 proposed stipulation should be explained to defendant in advance.
- 6 14. While the Court is in session, counsel, including anyone sitting at
7 counsel table, shall not leave counsel table to confer with
8 investigators, secretaries, or witnesses unless permission is
9 granted in advance.
- 10 15. Counsel should not walk out of the courtroom while the Court is
11 in session without permission.
- 12 16. When a party has more than one lawyer, only one lawyer may
13 conduct the examination of a given witness, and only that same
14 lawyer may assert or oppose objections during the testimony of
15 that witness.
- 16 17. If a witness was on the witness stand at a recess or adjournment,
17 counsel who called the witness shall ensure the witness is back on
18 the witness stand and ready to proceed when court resumes.
- 19 18. Counsel are directed to have witnesses available throughout the
20 court day. If no witnesses are available and there is more than a
21 brief delay, the Court may deem counsel to have rested.
- 22 19. The Court attempts to cooperate with expert witnesses and other
23 professionals and will, except in extraordinary circumstances,
24 accommodate them by permitting them to be called out of
25 sequence. Counsel are urged to anticipate any such possibility
26 and to discuss it with opposing counsel. If there is an objection,
27 counsel shall confer with the Court in advance.
- 28

1 20. Counsel must notify the CRD in advance if any witness should be
2 accommodated based on the Americans with Disabilities Act or
3 for other reasons.

4 21. Counsel are advised to be on time, as the Court makes every
5 effort to start promptly.

6 IT IS SO ORDERED.

7 DATED:

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12 HONORABLE BEVERLY REID O'CONNELL
13 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
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JUDGE BEVERLY REID O'CONNELL
SCHEDULE OF TRIAL AND PRETRIAL DATES

Matter	Time	Weeks before trial	Plaintiff(s) (Request)	Defendant(s) (Request)	Court Order
Trial (jury) Estimated length: ____ days	8:30 am				10/04/2016
Jury trial - Hearing on Motions in Limine	1:30 pm	-1			09/26/2016
Hearing on Disputed Jury Instructions	1:30 pm	-2			09/19/2016
Pretrial Conference; Proposed Voir Dire Q.s. Lodged; file Agreed-to Statement of Case; File Agreed Upon Set of Jury Instructions and Verdict Forms; File Joint Statement re Disputed Instructions, Verdicts, etc.	3:00 pm	-4			08/29/2016
Motions in Limine to be filed		-5			08/29/2016
Lodge Pretrial Conf. Order; File Memo of Contentions of Fact and Law; Exhibit & Witness Lists		-6			08/22/2016
Last date to file Joint Report re ADR proceeding		-7			08/15/2016
Last date to conduct ADR proceeding		-8			08/08/2016
Last day for hearing motions	1:30 pm	-9			08/01/2016
Discovery cut-off [Note: Expert disclosure no later than 70 days prior to this date.]		-10			07/25/2016